

Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: Part 34 NPRM Comments
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS E-03
Atlanta, GA 30333

Re: Docket # CDC-2008-0001

Dear Sirs/Madams:

ASISTA Immigration Assistance writes to commend the Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") for issuing these proposed regulations to remove HIV from the list of "communicable diseases of public health significance" and to remove the HIV testing requirement from the routine medical examination of foreign nationals. This change is long overdue and we hope that you will implement it as quickly as possible.

ASISTA co-chairs the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women and is the national technical assistance provider on immigration law for grantees of the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. [REDACTED] worked on issues affecting HIV positive immigrants for fifteen years and was the original author of the manual used by immigration practitioners and AIDS organizations, "HIV and Immigrants." Working now primarily to serve noncitizen victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, we at ASISTA have seen how the insidious and discriminatory barriers to noncitizens with HIV have compounded the suffering of abused and assaulted women and children.

We agree and have signed on to the letters submitted by the Family Violence Prevention Fund and Immigration Equality. We are grateful and proud that our government has finally decided to remove this barrier grounded in ignorance and bigotry. Now the US can lead the rest of the world in fighting HIV/AIDS unburdened by a hypocritical domestic policy.

Thank you for proposing this vital regulatory change; please finalize it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

ASISTA Immigration Assistance
3101 Ingersoll Ave
Des Moines, IA 50312

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